

MOTION BY CHAIR HILDA L. SOLIS

June 14, 2016

Leamos @ the Library Grant Award

California is home to 565,375 Spanish-speaking adults who cannot read and write in any language (American Community Survey 2010-2012). They have endured severe poverty and isolation in their youth and generally have had fewer than three years of formal education. Without a foundation in literacy, they have limited success in learning English or participating in other skills training. This also means they are not able to read to their children or model day-to-day literacy behavior in the home. The County of Los Angeles Public Library (Public Library) serves many communities with high levels of Spanish speakers and low levels of educational attainment.

“Leamos (Let’s read) @ the Library” (Project) is an online program which offers 43 courses designed to teach pre-ESL (English as a Second Language) literacy for adults that have received less than two years of basic schooling. The Project has been used successfully by thousands of individuals, adult education programs and libraries. The Project will be implemented at the El Monte Library and the Public Library is exploring expanding the program to other libraries.

The grant award from the Centro Latino for Literacy is for an amount valued up to \$4,500; \$4,000 is funded by the James Irvine Foundation and a supplement of \$500 is funded by Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds through Southern California Libraries. The grant period is from June 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017. The grant award will be used to cover license fees, training and technical support, publicity and marketing initiative, networking, project management, and reimbursement for travel expenses to a training session in Sacramento, CA. Acceptance of this one-time grant does not commit the County to provide ongoing services.

The Project will be staffed by a librarian, who is fluent in Spanish and English, and will utilize new laptop computers and a collection of materials to support the online curriculum. The students may attend weekly group sessions tutored by the bilingual librarian.

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

KUEHL _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

SOLIS _____

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I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. The proposed project is not a project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is an activity that is excluded from the definition of a project by Section 15378 (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines. This proposed action would create a government funding mechanism that does not involve any commitment to a specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.
2. Accept the grant award from the Centro Latino for Literacy for an amount valued up to \$4,500; \$4,000 funded by the James Irvine Foundation, and \$500 funded by the Federal Library Services and Technology Act funds through Southern California Library Cooperative for “Leamos @ the Library” for the Public Library, for the grant period from June 1, 2016, through July 31, 2017.
3. Authorize and delegate authority to the County Librarian to execute documents and agreements related to the acceptance and use of the grant award; to expend the grant award as necessary for the completion of the grant project; and to meet the conditions of the grant award.

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